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SENATE JUDICIARY

EXHIBIT NO. 7

DATE 1/92/09

BILL NO. SB 140

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

MONTANA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW COMMISSION

JANUARY 2009

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**STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION AND VICTIM SERVICES**

Steve Bullock
Attorney General



2225 Eleventh Avenue
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Helena, MT 59620-1410

January 2009

Fellow Montanans:

The Montana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission brings forward its third biennial report. Created by the Montana legislature in 2003, the Commission reviews two domestic violence homicides each year across the state. This report is the summary of our work since January 2007.

There have been at least 22 domestic violence deaths in Montana during this period. Victims of family violence ranged from a 12-year-old boy to two 50-year-old adults. Unfortunately, intimate partner homicide is not diminishing in our state; the number of deaths this biennium is 59 percent higher than last.

Since its inception, the Commission has worked to expand and broaden its understanding of domestic violence homicide. During the past two years deaths involving military personnel, reservation-based Native Americans, a male victim and a workplace killing were all reviewed for the first time. These deaths required interaction with a number of partners, including the federal government and the tribes, creating valuable new relationships. Montana is fortunate to have professionals at every level, in every agency, actively working to understand and reduce domestic violence deaths.

Attorney General Mike McGrath created the Commission and has been a crucial supporter of our work. We are grateful for his guidance and wish him well as Montana's new Chief Justice. The Commission looks forward to working with Attorney General Steve Bullock and members of the 2009 Legislature. Our collective need to stay focused on keeping domestic violence victims safe has not diminished.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Dale".

Matthew Dale, Coordinator
Montana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission